

SRTC

Spokane Regional Transportation Council

"SRTC provides for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods into, within, and through the Spokane Region with an integration of balanced multi-modal transportation choices."

Projects Needed For TIGER Funding

Recently released numbers show that Spokane has been quite proactive with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA or stimulus) money. The region has the most stimulus projects currently underway in the state and has created the most jobs with that money.

SRTC alone allocated \$10.4 million in stimulus money this past spring. Now transportation officials are gearing up for the next incarnation of ARRA, known as the TIGER grant program (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery).

There is \$1.5 billion available through this program to projects that have a significant impact on the nation, metropolitan areas, or a region.

Grants must be between \$20 and \$300 million, although that requirement can be waived for small towns that may not have projects that big.

Applications for TIGER funding must be turned in by Sept. 15, 2009 and projects funded with that money must be constructed by February 2012.

For more information on TIGER funding, go to <http://www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/>.

Walkability Audits Available

SRTC is working with an 'active transportation' group to conduct walkability audits. The group, made up of representatives from The Lands Council, City of Spokane, Spokane Transit Authority, Bicycle Advisory Board, Spokane Regional Health District, and others, focuses on improving the environment for bicycling and walking.

A walkability audit is an evaluation of the walking environment that identifies safety, access, and convenience concerns for pedestrians. Audits also identify potential solutions, such as engineering treatments, policy changes, or education and enforcement measures.

The group is available to conduct audits in local neighborhoods, and is putting together a packet and video to show neighborhoods how to conduct their own audits. If interested in having a walking audit in your neighborhood, email us at contact.srtc@srtc.org.

Regional Bike Map Available

2009 Spokane Regional Bike Maps are now available at area bike shops.

The map is a compilation of bike routes, classifying Spokane-area roads as having shared use paths, bicycle lanes, shared roadways, or being suggested commuter and recreation routes.



A new feature of the map this year shows where there are hills, so prospective riders know in advance if a route is too steep for their skill level.

The maps are free and can be picked up at any area bike shop, the STA Plaza, R.E.I., SRTC or downloaded at www.srtc.org on the 'Bicycle and Pedestrian Resources' page.

Due to the limited number of bike maps available, we are not able to distribute them in large quantities for local businesses or services.

August TTC Meeting Rescheduled

Due to scheduling conflicts, the August meeting of SRTC's Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) has been rescheduled to Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting is usually held the third Wednesday of each month.

Check out www.srtc.org for all SRTC's latest projects

West Plains-SIA Study

Over the past few weeks, SRTC staff and stakeholders in the West Plains-Spokane International Airport Study have worked with a variety of sources to identify and collect information on current and future developments west of Spokane. This information will be used to update the forecast land use for the West Plains area.

The WP-SIA study is being conducted in response to rapid development in the West Plains and its' impact on the Geiger Interchange.

For more information on this study, go to www.srtc.org. There's a link on the home page.

STP Call For Projects Released

SRTC has released a 2009 Call for Projects for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding for 2011-2012.

Submitted projects will be categorized in three areas; Capital Improvement (projects that involve complete reconstruction or new construction), Roadway Reconstruction (rebuilding the full-depth roadway section), and Roadway Preservation (projects intended to improve and preserve structural integrity of existing roadway).

\$10 million of STP funding is expected to be available. For more information, or to apply for funding, go to www.srtc.org. There is a link on the home page. Applications are due August 17.

Draft 2008 Base Model Out For Review

A draft of the 2008 Base Travel Demand Model was released at the July Model Users Group (MUG) meeting. Stakeholders were asked to review the draft model and provide comments, suggestions, and feedback in their areas.

Once the 2008 Base model is finalized, the next step is to collect specific data for every 2015/2030 project submitted to SRTC for the projects list. Timely cooperation will ensure all previously identified projects are well represented in the new 2015 and 2030 forecast models.

For more information on the Travel Demand Model, call SRTC at (509) 343-6370 or email contact.srtc@srtc.org.

Pedestrian Plan Work In Final Stages

SRTC is working with the Spokane Regional Health District to put the finishing touches on the Spokane Regional Master Pedestrian Plan.

The plan is being developed to address the needs and issues of area pedestrians. It includes policies to promote physical activity in Spokane County and addresses the need for additional projects and programs that encourage walking in the community.

The Pedestrian Plan is in the final stages of editing and will be put out for a public comment period within the next few months.

SmartRoutes Projects Submitted To Reauthorization Bill



Due to a lack of time to appropriately address transportation

issues, the United States Senate is in the process extending the current SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act) reauthorization for 18 months.

SRTC has submitted \$4 million in SmartRoutes projects for inclusion in the reauthorization of that bill. That doesn't guarantee funding for the projects included, but in case Congress decides to earmark that bill we will be ready to move forward.

SmartRoutes is a plan to increase walking and bicycling in Spokane County. It was developed in conjunction with the Rails to Trails Conservancy's (RTC) plan to double the national non-motorized transportation budget to \$9 billion in the next transportation budget.

SmartRoutes stakeholders are also discussing the possibility of applying for TIGER funding (see article above) for at least \$20 million worth of bicycling and walking projects.

For more information on SmartRoutes and projects included in the SmartRoutes program, go to www.SmartRoutes.org.